



Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel

Commander, First Coast Guard District
U.S. Coast Guard



Rear Admiral Abel assumed the duties of First District Commander in May 2012. He oversees all Coast Guard missions across eight states in the Northeast including over 2,000 miles of Coastline from the U.S.-Canadian border to northern New Jersey and 1300 miles offshore. In fulfilling these responsibilities, Rear Admiral Abel commands more than 11,000 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary personnel, and employs 30 cutters, 200 boats and 8 aircraft. His previous assignment was as the Deputy Director of Operations for Headquarters United States Northern Command.

The Directorate of Operations is the principal advisor to the USNORTHCOM Commander on all operational matters, providing strategic guidance to plan and execute missions within the area of responsibility; including land, maritime, and Homeland Defense air operations, Defense Support of Civil Authorities and cooperative military actions confronting transnational crime.



Rear Admiral Abel was previously assigned as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod. Air Station Cape Cod provides all aviation support to the Coast Guard First District. This unit also is the Coast Guard's third largest Base, supporting numerous active military and National Guard commands.

Prior to his assignment as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, he served as Project Manager for "Rescue 21." This system is replacing the Coast Guard's outdated distress notification and command, control & communications system along the nation's 95,000 miles of coastline. Prior staff tours include serving as the Coast Guard's Chief of Aviation Safety and as a Program Reviewer crafting and defending the service's budget.

Operational tours include command of Air Station San Francisco, Operations Officer for Air Station Houston, Aviation Training Center standardization/instructor pilot for the H65 Dolphin helicopter and his initial aviation tour as a search & rescue/law enforcement helicopter pilot in Miami.

His education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering, with High Honors, from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1983. He also served as valedictorian of the College of William and Mary's MBA class of 1994. More recently in 2005, he was a distinguished graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) earning a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy. While at ICAF, Rear Admiral Abel completed the DoD Senior Acquisition Corps syllabus, and subsequently earned his Department of Homeland Security Level II Acquisition Program Manager Designation. He has earned qualifications in both the H65 helicopter and the HU25 jet. His initial officer tour was as a deck watch officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless homeported in Miami Beach.

Rear Admiral Abel's personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Legion of Merits, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals and a Coast Guard Achievement Medal. He is an Eagle Scout.